



Ulverston BID Meeting Minutes - 1st April 2020 – Tel Conference

Attending: Jan Hancock (Town House), Gavin Knott (Appleseeds), Sarah Mammatt (The Northern Line), Janet Heffernan (SJB School), Jacqui McCloy (Tritech), Justin Wales (PM).

Absent:- Dennis Round (Siemens), Michelle Scrogam (Pure)., Tony Martinez (Cumbria Teaching Agency), Suzanne Edgley (The Best Of), Andy Poole (Original Men’s Room), Wendy Barry (Avanti Capitola), Judith Pickthall (Town Council), Janette Jenkinson (SLDC). Beth Kennedy (UCE), Richard Butler (UVHS)

Items for discussion:-

Item	Meeting Note	Action
1	<p>Members Available</p> <p>The meeting was held as a Tel conference with dial in opportunity for all. The agenda was limited to the BID revote extension and associated levy payments due.</p>	
2	<p>Extension of Mandate</p> <p>The current mandate for the Ulverston BID ends at the end of Aug 2020. All BID’s in England & Northern Ireland who intended to go to revote ballot this year are now being granted an extension to end Mar 2021. The Board is in agreement that we need to reset the current timetable for our revote and this will impact on the levy collection processes and options. From this government decision we can delay revote through to March 21, but we will have no remit to collect any levy beyond Aug, If successful it would implement a back dated levy from Apr 20 to Mar 21. This could be two bills (Apr to Oct & Nov to Mar). The sensitivity of maintaining and improving our relationship with levy payers and implementing sensible requests for levy was discussed. Having a revote in the winter period beyond Dec was seen as being problematic.</p> <p>There is a levy payment due for the period Apr to Aug 2020 and this is being delayed by SLDC (with our agreement) mainly due to the change of workload at the council offices caused by the Corvid-19 impact. They will not be in a position to issue the revote papers or levy requests to levy payers until May..</p>	

	<p>The discussion reviewed the best opportunity for revote should the situation of lockdown improve and an end of Oct 2020 date was agreed as a target with business plan issued in Sept. We agreed to use April as a review period and provisionally discuss with SLDC our delayed date for the revote and billing. The considerations around this Oct decision are:-</p> <p>The town festivals are all gearing up for Sept/Oct</p> <p>The car park initiative would be activated then</p> <p>Businesses may well start to be on a recovery curve by then.</p> <p>Ulverston in Bloom will still make the town attractive (The order for the plants is in place and although scaled back will be implemented in town).</p> <p>There is still some flexibility around this date as the situation develops, however SLDC has a legal mandate to issue BID levy accounts to cover the period from Apr 2020 & this is still applicable. We agreed to monitor this proposed revised date of Oct 2020 and have an option to move this again should the situation not improve. SLDC have committed to gaining 98% of the levy for the BID. Justin to attain written confirmation of this</p>	Justin
2	<p>Levy Collection</p> <p>Recognising this delay in BID levy collection, discussions have taken place with SLDC as to the impact on our finances given some commitments are in place. It has been agreed that SLDC will pay the whole contribution for the Car Park initiative for the year one and if the ballot is successful the BID will pick up the tab for the whole of the second year (£36k). (was 50/50).</p> <p>In addition we have indicated to SLDC that a shortfall in levy for the period Apr to Aug 2020 is likely to have an impact on our delivery of approx. £46k commitments and an advance of approx. 50% of spends would be required (approx. £23k) to maintain a balance in the account, given we have some uncommitted balances and some economies could be implements. This would be a loan with payback after successful revote. Failure of revote would be a SLDC cost.</p> <p>There is also an initiative from the British BID's association lobbying the State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to review and help with the rates anomaly. Currently, rate relief to businesses is being offered for one year but we are still obligated to issue a BID rate levy with no relief. Not considered acceptable by the Board. A decision is expected in April to clarify this. Some data has been requested from the State body</p>	

	<p>to assist in this matter on four issues:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With no additional income, for how many weeks would your reserves (if any) cover your operational overheads? 2. What proportion of your total levy comes from the retail, leisure and hospitality sector? 3. What percentage of this year's levy are you expecting to be paid? 4. Do your current financial circumstances threaten the future of your BID? <p>Jacqui will respond to this request</p> <p>Assuming Oct revote becomes applicable, then the levy bills for the period Apr to Oct 2020 would probably be issued by SLDC in June. The impact on revote would be clearly negative and seriously offensive to many businesses.</p> <p>The Board agreed to liaise closely with SLDC during the current month of April and agree and maintain a sensible approach and a possible delay to billing.. A successful ballot would still demand a levy bill for the period from Apr 2020 to either Oct or Mar 2021. Unless a waiver is forthcoming from the State department SLDC will still be legally obliged to collect the levy from Apr to Oct at some point.</p> <p>A delay to levy collection timetable was agreed and a review would be carried out at the earliest end April. Justin to notify SLDC. The BID board meeting in May will review in some detail.</p>	<p>Jacqui</p> <p>Justin</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Grant Application</p> <p>All Grant applications are on hold.</p> <p>The UCP commitment for the Town leaflet is committed, as the printing has been implemented.</p> <p>The Ulverston in Bloom is also committed, but to be trimmed back.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>After the Crisis</p> <p>Board to think about possible initiative we could provide some backing for to allow a kick start to the town's activities when time allows.</p>	<p>Board</p>

5	Next Meeting The constitutional requirements of the AGM to be reviewed by Justin. Clearly the public facing meeting for 20 th May is cancelled. Next Board Meeting 6 th May – probably by Tel Conf.	
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